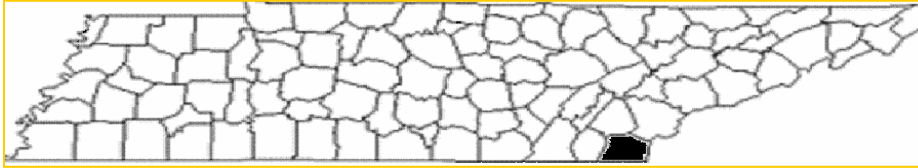


# The Status of Women in Polk County



## STATUS OF WOMEN IN POLK COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	50.60	54
Women's Annual Earnings	\$21,010	48
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	75.8%	22
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	39.4%	71
Female Unemployment Rate	5.0%	25
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	22.6%	87
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	48.13	46
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	38.8%	3
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	9.4%	59
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	64.4%	75
Female High School Dropout Rate	6.7%	45
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	77.2%	95
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	14.4%	32
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	6.5%	12
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	36.9	64

**Report Overview:** This publication on the Status of Women in Polk County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

## The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

### POLK

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

#### Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.

- ◇ Polk County women have median earnings of \$21,010 annually, which is only 75.8% of their male counterparts' earnings.
- ◇ In Polk County, the women's labor force participation rate is 39.4%, nearly 6 percent less than the participation rate for Tennessee women overall.
- ◇ The female unemployment rate is at 5.0%, slightly higher than the overall county unemployment rate of 4.9%.
- ◇ Of working women in Polk County 22.6% hold managerial or professional jobs in the county while 16.5% of all employed persons work in such occupations.

#### Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ In Polk County 64.4% of women have a high school diploma and 62.2% of all county residents have a high-school level degree.
- ◇ Only 9.4% of women in the county have a four-year college degree, but just 7.5% of all county residents have such a degree. Higher percentages of women than men hold high school diplomas and bachelor's degrees in Polk County.
- ◇ Polk ranks last among counties in percent of women with any kind of health insurance coverage. Almost 23 percent of women in the county have no form of health insurance.
- ◇ 14.4% of women earn incomes below the poverty level in Polk County.
- ◇ Though 9.7% of families live in poverty in Polk County, the percentage rises to 23.5% for families with a female householder and no husband present.
- ◇ Polk ranks 3rd among counties in percent of businesses owned by women, trailing only Moore and Trousdale counties. Almost 39 percent of businesses are owned by women, but these female-owned businesses account for just 4.9% of the total income and receipts from private firms in the county.

# The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

## POLK

		Polk County	Rank of Polk County	Highest Ranking County
<b>Earnings</b>	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$21,010	48	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	75.8%	22	Davidson: 82.1%
<b>Employment</b>	Female Labor Force Participa- tion Rate	39.4%	71	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	5.0%	25	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	22.6%	87	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	38.8%	3	Moore: 63.3%
<b>Education</b>	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	9.4%	59	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equiva- lency)	64.4%	75	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	6.7%	45	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%
<b>Lifestyles</b>	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage	77.2%	95	Montgomery/ Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	14.4%	32	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	6.5%	12	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	36.9	64	Williamson: 1.2%

# ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Polk County

*The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties* report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at [www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org)

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties